

NOVEMBER 2003 IS NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>National Adoption Day is Saturday, November 22rd</p> <p>It doesn't just end here! Remember to keep support for adoption alive throughout the coming year!</p>					<p>1 Contact your local child welfare office to find out how to become a foster or adoptive parent. Search the National Adoption Directory for a listing of public agencies in your area.</p>
	<p>2 Learn about the children in the United States waiting for adoptive families by visiting the AdoptUSKids Web site, the national photo listing service for children awaiting adoption.</p>	<p>3 Contact your city or State government to learn whether November has been declared National Adoption Month. If not, invite your mayor or governor to issue an Adoption Month Proclamation.</p>	<p>4 Create a National Adoption Month bulletin board at your place of employment. Ask your colleagues to post adoption-related articles and information about events within their communities. Be sure to include a National Adoption Month poster in your display. Download a copy of the poster on the AdoptUSKids Web site.</p>	<p>5 Help recruit families for waiting children by asking local grocery stores, restaurants, banks, and places of worship to display National Adoption Month posters and materials.</p>	<p>6 Visit the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse Web site. Download materials or contact NAIC toll-free at 888-251-0075 or by e-mail at naic@calib.com.</p>	<p>7 Write a letter to the editor of your community newspaper about National Adoption Month or an adoption issue that needs to be addressed in your State. Contact your local newspaper editorial staff by E-mail, notifying them of any upcoming events.</p>
<p>9 Get some fliers describing specific children waiting for adoption from your local public agency to insert in bulletins at your place of worship. Search the National Adoption Directory for a listing of public agencies near you.</p>	<p>10 With your child's permission, offer to give a presentation about adoption to students. Visit Resources for Parents and Teachers for information on preparing adoption-related lessons.</p>	<p>11 Become familiar with adoption laws in your State and surrounding States. Visit our Statutes-at-a-Glance database that highlights specific adoption related topics and provides a quick overview and comparison across the States. Also, the National Center for Adoption Law & Policy has developed a new Web site providing summaries of statutes, case law as well as regulations for all aspects of adoption law.</p>	<p>12 Pin a button related to adoption on your jacket or purse, and be ready to talk about the number of children in the United States who are waiting for adoptive families. Check out the latest Adoption and Foster Care Analysis & Reporting System (AFCARS) data provided by the U.S. Children's Bureau.</p>	<p>13 Visit the June/July 2003 edition of the Children's Bureau Express to learn about resources on individualized and targeted recruitment of adoptive families.</p>	<p>14 Ask your local library or bookstore to create an adoption display, and provide a copy of the National Adoption Month poster, available for download on the AdoptUSKids Web site.</p>	<p>15 Create a life book with your child. Life books have pictures of important people in a child's life and information about his/her history. Read more about life books on the About Adoption Web site.</p>
<p>16 Contact your place of worship and ask them to hold a special service in honor of adoption.</p>	<p>17 Create a family ritual to celebrate your child's adoption. For ideas on rituals, visit the North American Council on Adoptable Children National Adoption Awareness Month Guide.</p>	<p>18 Talk to a member of your tribe about adopting or fostering a Native American child. The National Indian Child Welfare Association can provide you with culturally appropriate resources to share.</p>	<p>19 Offer to provide child care for a local adoptive/foster parent support group meeting or event. Search the National Adoption Directory to find a list of support groups in your area.</p>	<p>20 Create colorful "Certificates of Family Membership" for children who are going to court to have their adoptions finalized on National Adoption Day. Check with the clerk of the court to see if the judge would sign one for each adopted child.</p>	<p>21 Provide adoption materials to the teachers at your child's school, including NAIC factsheets and resource listings.</p>	<p>22 NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY Many families around the United States will be finalizing adoptions today. Donate disposable cameras or offer to take pictures of families after they finalize their adoptions. For more information visit the National Adoption Day Web site.</p>
<p>23 Celebrate what makes your family unique with a special dinner that honors your child's heritage. Afterwards, spend time together watching a movie or playing your child's favorite game.</p>	<p>24 Send a thank you note to the judge who finalized your child's adoption. Be sure to include a recent family photograph to update him/her regarding your family!</p>	<p>25 Organize a story hour at your child's school library or your local public library. Select a book from our adoption related reading lists.</p>	<p>26 Ask your employer to provide equity for all employees, whether they build families through adoption or birth. Visit the National Adoption Center's Web site and read their adoption friendly workplace information.</p>	<p>27 THANKSGIVING Give thanks together with your family. Give each family member a chance to share one thing they are thankful for. Remember the birth family members, foster parents, or other important people in your children's lives.</p>	<p>28 Contact your local public adoption agency and volunteer to speak to prospective adoptive parents about your adoption experiences. Search the National Adoption Directory for a listing of public agencies in your area.</p>	<p>29 On this "biggest shopping day of the year," remember the teens who are still waiting for families by buying clothing, luggage or other gift items to donate to youth in foster care.</p>
<p>30 As National Adoption Month comes to an end, become a mentor to youth aging out of the foster care system. Find out more about mentoring from Casey Family services.</p>						